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Reserve

NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

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No. 39

Raleigh, N. C.

JUNE 15, 1949

JUNE 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION JUNE 1

Temperatures continued on the cool side during May. As a result, farmers have experienced some difficulty in getting their crops up to good stands. Replanting has been rather general, particularly on cotton and corn and in many areas stands are not too good. In addition, insects are appearing in large numbers and have added to the problem of getting crops started.

Rainfall during the first half of May was more than adequate in all areas and soils were generally unfavorably wet during this period. Very little rain of consequence was received during the third week of the month. The last week of May brought rains of more than 1 inch to all east central and southeastern counties.

Small grain harvest is getting underway in most areas. Barley and rye harvest is well advanced, except in Mountain districts. Wheat and oats harvest still is less than 25 percent complete.

Small grain crops have been subjected to numerous unfavorable conditions. Winter killing, rust, downy mildew, poor pollination, and Army worm attacks have all had varying degrees of influence on small grain prospects, especially wheat which seems to have been hit the hardest.

The planting of corn, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, and other spring-sown crops is practically completed. Cotton and corn show irregular stands and growth has been slow due to cool temperatures. The replanting of peanuts was rather general in some of the more important northeastern counties due to unfavorable weather and poor germination from the use of untreated seed. However, most fields are now up to reasonably good stands.

Crops, generally, are in a good state of cultivation with the exception of those in some southeastern counties where frequent rains have held field work to a minimum.

The tobacco crop generally looks good. Plant supplies were extremely short in some sections but enough plants were secured to set acreage allotments.

Hay prospects are exceptionally favorable. Harvesting of hay crops started unusually early this year.

IRISH POTATO PROSPECTS LOWER

Reports from commercial early Irish potato growers in North Carolina as of June 1 indicate a production of 4,800,000 bushels. This production would mean an average yield of 200 bushels per acre from the state's 24,000 acres of commercial potatoes. Production prospects are somewhat lower than a month earlier due to damage caused by excessive rain in some of the heavier producing areas.

In 1948, there were 6,510,000 bushels produced in the state at an average yield of 210 bushels per acre from 31,000 acres. The average production for the 10-year period (1938-47) is 5,047,000 bushels, resulting in an average yield per acre of 148 bushels. The commercial acreage for the 10-year period averaged 34,150.

Total production of late spring commercial early Irish potatoes in the United States is estimated at 39,018,000 bushels from 143,000 acres. This compares with a total production in 1948 of 44,787,000 bushels from 168,100 acres and the 10-year average production of 31,386,000 bushels from an average of 175,990 acres.

WHEAT PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Current prospects for North Carolina's 1949 wheat crop look about the same as a month earlier. The June 1 forecast of production is for a crop of 6,780,000 bushels, the same yield as estimated for last month but somewhat below the April 1 estimate of 7,365,000 bushels. The present forecast is 12 percent above the short 1948 crop, and about equal to the 10-year average production of 6,805,000 bushels.

The acreage for harvest is estimated at 452,000 acres, 16 percent larger than the acreage harvested in 1948. Conditions on June 1 point to a yield of 15 bushels of wheat per harvested acre, a half bushel below the average for the 1948 crop, but slightly above the 10-year average.

For the United States a production of 1,336,976,000 bushels for both winter and spring wheat is indicated by conditions as of June 1. This is about 4 percent above the 1948 crop of 1,288,406,000 bushels, and only 2 percent below the record of 1,367,186,000 bushels produced in 1947.

POTATO DIGGING TIME



OATS PROSPECTS GOOD

Prospects for the N. C. 1949 oats crop are fairly good in all areas of the State. The June 1 forecast of production is for a crop of 11,674,000 bushels, as compared with last year's production of 7,965,000 bushels. Present indications point to a production considerably larger than the 10-year average (1938-47) of 8,226,000 bushels.

Harvesting of the crop is well underway in all areas; however, the percent harvested varies considerably over the State.

June 1 conditions indicate an oats crop for the entire United States of 1,475 million bushels. This is slightly below last year's production of 1,492 million bushels and compares with the average of 1,234 million bushels.

RYE YIELDS GOOD

June 1 indications point to a yield of 13.5 bushels of rye per harvested acre. This is one bushel per acre above the yield last year and 2.9 bushels greater than the 10-year average. If this yield materializes, North Carolina farmers will harvest 284,000 bushels of rye this summer, which would be only slightly above the 1948 crop yield of 275,000 bushels, yet 113,000 bushels less than the 10-year average.

A decrease in acreage is responsible for the rather small crop. North Carolina farmers planted 21,000 acres of rye for harvest this year, which is 1,000 acres below last year's harvested acreage and 19,000 acres below the 10-year average.

BARLEY CROP ABOVE AVERAGE

A barley crop of 903,000 bushels is indicated for North Carolina by conditions as of June 1. This is 104,000 bushels greater than the 1948 harvest of 799,000 bushels, and 139,000 bushels above the 10-year average.

Harvesting of the crop is well underway in most areas, however, the percent of completion varies widely over the State. Farmers report that yields thus far are well above the average.

For the entire United States a production of 283 million bushels is indicated by conditions as of June 1. This compares with 317 million bushels last year and the average of 305 million bushels. This decline in expected production is due primarily to the smaller acreage, because yield prospects are mostly good.

PEACH PRODUCTION LOW

The production outlook for North Carolina's peach crop, as of June 1, was estimated at 1,660,000 bushels, or about the same as production in 1948 (See table below). A crop of this size would be about 57 percent of the 1947 crop and 74.8 percent of the 10-year average production.

Damage from the rather severe freeze in April is chiefly responsible for the reduced peach crop this year. Some orchards have also been damaged by hail and windstorms. According to reports from producers damages to the crop from diseases and insects have been about normal.

INDICATED PRODUCTION OF PEACHES
AS OF JUNE 1, 1949

STATE	AVERAGE 1938-47	1948	IND. 1949	1949 % OF 1948
-THOUSAND BUSHELS-				
N. C.	2,220	1,646	1,660	100.9
TENN.	939	428	450	105.1
VA.	1,490	1,209	1,953	161.5
S. C.	3,671	3,160	2,739	86.7
GA.	5,358	2,812	2,730	97.1
U. S.	68,947	65,352	77,123	118.0

APPLE PROSPECTS POOR

Reports from North Carolina apple growers as of June 1 indicate that only about half an average crop is in prospect this year.

In the commercial area the condition of the apple crop is variable, but on an average is considerably below that for the comparable date a year ago. Apple scab has been very bad, yet growers indicate that damage has not been too severe where proper sprays have been used rather frequently.

The present outlook for a poor crop of apples can be almost entirely credited to frost damage that occurred on April 16. Some areas report that hail damage has also helped to reduce prospects.

The Nation's 1949 apple crop is expected to be average or slightly above, according to June 1 condition reports from apple growers in commercial areas.

SMALLER PEAR CROP

June 1 reports indicate a 1949 pear crop of 153,000 bushels--26.8 percent below last year's production and 49.2 percent below the 1938-47 average of 301,000 bushels.

Fresh vegetables for market in June and July will be about as plentiful as last summer.

HAY CROPS AND PASTURES GOOD

As of June 1 the condition of early hay crops in North Carolina was unusually good. At an indicated 89 percent the June 1 condition equaled the record high reached in 1943. A good percentage of the earlier hays were cut during the month. Generally good yields have been realized from grain hays. Alfalfa hay prospects are exceptionally good. Mild winter and spring weather proved advantageous to this crop, with first cuttings having already been made considerably ahead of the usual schedule. This will mean an extra cutting for many growers should the remainder of the season be favorable. Condition of clover and timothy hay equals the high record of 1946.

Pastures continued to respond to the favorable weather of June. According to reports received from farmers and dairymen as of June 1, condition of pastures at 93 percent reached the record high level set in 1946.

EGG PRODUCTION

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during May totaled 118 million, a drop of around 9 million eggs below production for the previous month. However, egg production for May exceeded production for the same period last year by 8 million eggs.

Farmers continued to cull their flocks rather heavily in May with a total of 7,008,000 layers reported. This is 356,000 fewer layers than were present on farms in April. As has been true all season, the number of layers on farms is considerably larger than layers on farms for the same period last year. The number of layers on farms in May exceeds the number for May of the previous year by about 300,000.

With the appearance of the seasonal trend in egg production, the rate of lay dropped 42 eggs per 100 layers under the rate of lay recorded for the previous month.

SHORT-TERM DEBTS HIGH

The volume of short-term debts owed by farmers has increased steadily since the end of the war and on January 1, 1949, totaled 4.9 billion dollars compared with 3.1 billion at the beginning of 1948 and 2.8 billion on January 1, 1946.

This debt, which does not include commodity loans made or guaranteed by CCC was owed to a variety of lenders such as banks, production credit associations, Farmers Home Administration, merchants, finance companies and individuals. For several years before the war farmers' short-term debts increased, reaching a high of $\frac{3}{4}$ billion on January 1, 1942. The debt on January 1 of the remaining war years averaged 2.8 billion dollars.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Milk cows on North Carolina farms produced an estimated 150 million pounds of milk during May. This is the highest production of record for the month of May and equals the previous record monthly production set in August of 1944. Milk production in May exceeded April by 13 million pounds, May of 1948 by 6 million pounds and the May 1938-47 average by 21 million pounds.

Milk production per cow in herds during May was also the highest of record for any month. The 353,000 milk cows produced an average of 426 pounds per cow. This compares with 388 pounds produced per cow in April and 405 pounds during May of last year.

Conditions during May were very favorable for the production of milk. The winter and spring growing season were unusually favorable for the growth of grasses and clovers. As a result, this year's pastures equalled the best in a quarter century.

Other factors are also responsible for the higher rate of production. Farmers throughout the State are taking advantage of artificial insemination as a means of improving their stock. The number of farmers catering to this service has increased rapidly during the past year. The value of better feeding and management practices is gaining more widespread recognition. Pastures are increasingly receiving more attention from the standpoint of land selection, fertilization, liming and seeding. The above factors are making important contributions toward increasing milk production in North Carolina.

TRUCK CROP REPORT

CUCUMBERS: The condition of North Carolina's fresh market cucumber crop as of June 1, points to a production of 539,000 bushels, or an average yield of 70 bushels per acre from the estimated 7,700 acres. Last year's production was 536,000 bushels from 6,700 acres.

SNAP BEANS: Production from North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop for fresh market is presently estimated at 520,000 bushels. This compares with 432,000 bushels produced in 1948 and a 10-year average of 408,000 bushels. This year's acreage is currently estimated at 6,500 acres. Last year's acreage was 5,400.

GREEN PEPPERS: Reports from pepper growers in North Carolina as of June 1 show that earlier acreage intentions did not materialize. It is now estimated that growers will have 3,600 acres for harvest

this year. Current prospects point to a production of 468,000 bushels--an average yield per acre of 130 bushels. Last year's production was 476,000 bushels from 3,400 acres. The 10-year average production for the State is 383,000 bushels.

WATERMELONS: The June 1 condition of North Carolina's 10,700 acres of commercial watermelons points to a production of 2,461,000 melons, or 230 melons per acre. Last year there were 2,300,000 melons produced on 10,000 acres. Average production and acreage for the 10-year (1938-47) period is 2,178,000 melons and 9,770 acres, respectively.

CANTALOUPS: Preliminary reports from cantaloup growers in the State indicate that 5,100 acres of the crop have been planted for harvest this year. The condition of the crop as of June 1 indicates a production of 280,000 crates (Jumbo). In 1948 there were 240,000 crates produced on 4,800 acres, comparing with the 10-year averages of 313,000 crates and 5,340 acres.

STRAWBERRIES: Production from North Carolina's 2,400 acres of mid-spring strawberries is now set at 144,000 crates, or 60 crates per acre. This year's production compares with 196,000 crates harvested last year from 2,300 acres and the 10-year average production of 361,000 crates from an average of 4,110 acres.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Commercial production of meat in the United States thus far in 1949 has been only slightly larger than in the same period of 1948. Consumption per capita for the larger population is estimated as $\frac{1}{2}$ pound less than a year earlier in each of the first two quarters. Production in the second half of 1949 is expected to exceed levels a year earlier by a larger percentage than in the first half. Last year's summer shortage of meat is not likely to be repeated this year and output of meat will increase rapidly in the fall as hogs from the larger spring pig crop move to market. Consumption of meat in each of the last two quarters of the year may exceed a year earlier by about $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per person. The total for the year is not expected to differ greatly from the 146 pounds in 1948.

Part of the increased meat supply to date this year has resulted from an increased output of beef. Reflecting the large expansion in grain feeding of cattle, the number of steers slaughtered under Federal inspection through April this year has been the second highest on record.

Pork production was larger than last year in the first quarter, but production in the second quarter has been smaller than expectations and the quarter total may be less than a year ago.

DEMAND FOR FARM PRODUCTS LOWER

The demand for U. S. farm products remains relatively high although at a lower level than in 1948. In recent months, the general level of prices received by farmers has been fairly stable at about 10 percent below last year's average. Nevertheless, declining trends in industrial output and employment which are reducing the flow of income to consumers indicate that some further weakening in the domestic demand for food and other farm products is likely.

Industrial production declined in April for the fifth consecutive month, falling 3 percent from March, while nonfarm employment was down 300,000 from March and 900,000 from April a year earlier. Preliminary reports indicate further declines in May. Industrial commodity prices at wholesale continued to weaken in May, particularly textiles, metals and building materials. The BLS index of all commodities in late May averaged 8 percent below the peak reached last summer.

Exports of farm products during the first quarter of 1949 remained high and their value reached an annual rate of 4.1 billion dollars, the highest since the first half of 1947. Most of the recent rise has been due to increased exports of cotton and lint. Exports of grains in the first quarter continued close to the high levels of 1948.

MORE HIRED LABOR ON FARMS

More hired laborers were working on farms in the United States during the week of May 22-28 than a year earlier, while the number of family workers was less. Agricultural employment totaled 12,071,000 compared with 12,326,000 a year ago. The supply of farm labor was generally adequate, although there were some local areas where more workers could have been used. Reflecting the eased farm labor situation was the fact that the length of day worked both for farm operators and for hired hands was down from a year ago. Farm operators averaged 11.8 hours work per day and hired hands, 9.8 hours.

For the United States there were 2 percent more hired workers on farms than in late May a year earlier. The number of family workers on the other hand, was 3 percent less.

In the South Atlantic States, farm work was on schedule except for corn planting and tobacco transplanting in North Carolina. Potato harvest in North Carolina is nearly completed in some areas and part of the cotton acreage had been cultivated twice. Tobacco harvest was just beginning in Georgia, and this operation requires considerable hand labor.

FARM REPORT

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Commercial slaughter of livestock in North Carolina during April 1949, including Federally inspected slaughter but excluding farm slaughter, totaled 36,700 head for all species. This marked a rather sharp drop from the 43,100 head slaughtered during March and compares with 55,600 head slaughtered in April 1948 and 40,200 head for the same month in 1947. Declines in numbers of head slaughtered developed for all species with the sharpest drop occurring for hogs.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APRIL 1948 AND 1949*

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	NUMBER		TOTAL		NUMBER		TOTAL	
	SLAUGHTERED		LIVEWEIGHT		SLAUGHTERED		LIVEWEIGHT	
	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949
	THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.		THOUS. HEAD		THOUS. LBS.	
CATTLE....	10.3	5.3	7,660	4,279	1,422	1,383	1,316,000	1,323,000
CALVES....	15.0	7.3	2,387	1,110	1,052	931	184,000	163,000
HOGS.....	30.0	24.0	6,150	5,350	4,497	4,762	1,076,000	1,129,000
SHEEP & LAMBS....	.3	.1	22	9	1,185	759	116,000	73,000

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

FARMERS' CASH RECEIPTS INCREASE

Tar Heel farmers received slightly over 26.2 million dollars in April 1949 from the sale of crops, livestock and products. This was about two million dollars more than total cash receipts in April of last year. Of the total receipts in April, livestock and products accounted for 50.8 percent.

The increase in cash receipts during April of this year was accounted for primarily by increased marketings and larger quantities of commodities such as cotton and corn placed under loan. Prices of most farm commodities have averaged below last year. So far this year prices received by farmers have decreased relatively more than prices paid for goods used in production have decreased.

Total cash farm receipts in North Carolina from January through April amounted to 114.8 million dollars, as compared with 110.3 million during the same period last year. Crops sold and placed under loan accounted for 57.6 percent of the total receipts during January-April of this year. Crop sales accounted for 55 percent of the total receipts during the same period last year.

MAY WEATHER SUMMARY

Thundershowers occurred frequently during May in all sections of the State. Some of them were particularly violent with hailstorms causing severe crop and some property damage mostly in the central and southern Piedmont. Although the total rainfall amounts this month ranged from near to well above the long-time averages in almost all sections, the distribution throughout the month, in contrast to the past several months, was quite unfavorable. For instance, two weeks with little or no rain followed the particularly heavy showers that fell in most sections on the 10th. Temperatures during the first three weeks of the month averaged near to above normal over most of the State while the last week was unusually cool. Almost all of the nights were quite cool. The coolness was particularly noticeable during the last two weeks.

